

## HOUSE BILL NO. 151

INTRODUCED BY GALVIN-HALCRO

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO WAIVE TUITION FOR ONE CREDIT EACH YEAR AT A UNIT OF THE MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM FOR CERTIFIED TEACHERS OR SPECIALISTS WHO ARE EMPLOYED FULL-TIME IN A MONTANA PUBLIC SCHOOL OR PARTICIPATING IN AN OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION INTERNSHIP TO ADD AN ENDORSEMENT TO THEIR EXISTING LICENSES AND WHO HAVE BEEN TEACHING 10 YEARS OR LESS AFTER BEING CERTIFIED TO APPLY TOWARD CONTINUING EDUCATION NECESSARY FOR CERTIFICATION RENEWAL; ALLOWING A TEACHER OR SPECIALIST TO ACCRUE ONE CREDIT EACH YEAR FOR A MAXIMUM OF 5 YEARS THREE CREDITS IN ONE 5-YEAR PERIOD AND PROVIDING THAT CREDITS ACCRUED BUT NOT USED WITHIN THE 5-YEAR PERIOD ARE FORFEITED; AMENDING SECTION 20-25-421, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 20-25-421, MCA, is amended to read:

**"20-25-421. Charges for tuition -- waivers.** (1) The regents may prescribe tuition rates, matriculation charges, and incidental fees for students in institutions under their jurisdiction.

(2) The regents may:

(a) waive nonresident tuition for selected and approved nonresident students, not to exceed at any unit 2% of the full-time equivalent enrollment at that unit during the preceding year; however, when necessary, tuition may be waived in excess of 2% of unit enrollment for nonresident students who enroll under provisions of any WICHE-sponsored state reciprocal agreements that provide for the payment, when required, of the student support fee by the reciprocal state;

(b) waive resident tuition for students at least 62 years of age;

(c) waive tuition and fees for:

(i) persons of one-fourth Indian blood or more who have been bona fide residents of Montana for at least 1 year prior to enrollment in the Montana university system;

- (ii) persons designated by the department of corrections pursuant to 52-5-112 or 53-1-214;
- (iii) residents of Montana who served with the armed forces of the United States in any of its wars and who were honorably discharged from military service;
- (iv) children of residents of Montana who served with the armed forces of the United States in any of its wars and who were killed in action or died as a result of injury, disease, or other disability incurred while in the service of the armed forces of the United States;
- (v) the spouses or children of residents of Montana who have been declared to be prisoners of war or missing in action; or
- (vi) the spouse or children of a Montana national guard member who was killed or died as a result of injury, disease, or other disability incurred in the line of duty while serving on state active duty;
- (d) waive tuition charges for qualified survivors of Montana firefighters or peace officers killed in the course and scope of employment. For purposes of this subsection, a qualified survivor is a person who meets the entrance requirements at the state university or college of the person's choice and is the surviving spouse or child of any of the following who were killed in the course and scope of employment:
- (i) a paid or volunteer member of a municipal or rural fire department;
  - (ii) a law enforcement officer as defined in 7-32-201; or
  - (iii) a full-time highway patrol officer;
- (e) waive tuition for one credit each year, not to exceed ~~five~~ THREE credits accrued over a period of 5 consecutive years, for a teacher or specialist who is employed full-time in a MONTANA PUBLIC SCHOOL OR PARTICIPATING IN AN OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION INTERNSHIP TO ADD AN ENDORSEMENT TO AN EXISTING LICENSE AND WHO HAS BEEN TEACHING 10 YEARS OR LESS AFTER BEING certified under 20-4-107 to apply toward continuing education for certification renewal. The teacher or specialist may not accrue more than ~~five~~ THREE credits and may use all or a portion of the credits within the 5-year period in which the credits were accrued. Credits accrued but not used within each 5-year period are forfeited.
- (3) If funds are available after the waivers provided for in subsection (2), the regents may waive tuition for up to 5,000 credits each academic year in accordance with the national guard education benefit program provided for in 10-1-121."

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date -- applicability.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval and applies to waivers granted on or after [the effective date of this act].

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